

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program 2003 Proposal Solicitation Notice March 14, 2003

Introduction

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) is requesting proposals for watershed restoration work throughout California. The objective of this Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation) is to solicit and fund projects that are consistent with the goal of salmon and steelhead trout conservation and restoration. The FRGP is accepting proposals in two geographic areas; Coastal drainages, and Central Valley drainages.

Proposal Due Date

In order to be considered for 2003/2004 funding, all proposals submitted by mail must have a U.S. Postal Service postmark no later than **May 9, 2003**. Proposals delivered by any other means (FEDEX, U.P.S., etc.), including hand-delivery in person, must be delivered no later than **May 9, 2003, at 3:00 p.m.** to the Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch staff at the exact location described below, or they will be rejected. You must provide 15 copies of each proposal.

For Mailing or Hand Delivery:

Grant Proposals
CA Department of Fish and Game
Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

In addition to the required hard copies, an electronic copy of your proposal may be submitted to kkarcher@dfg.ca.gov.

Eligibility Criteria

Any private or public entity with an interest in salmon and steelhead trout conservation and restoration may apply. This includes, but is not limited to (1) Public agencies, (2) Non-profit organizations, (3) Private enterprises, and (4) Indian tribes.

General Guidelines

Please read this Solicitation document carefully. It is a legal document. Proposals submitted must be in full compliance with all stated requirements in this Solicitation.

Forms used in this Solicitation can be found and downloaded in MS Word or PDF format on the internet at www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/fishgrant.html. The Application Form (Appendix A), must be submitted in hard copy with all other elements of the proposal package. In addition to the required hard copies, the Application Form can also be submitted electronically to expedite data input into our grants database.

Proposal sponsors are encouraged to work closely with local DFG fishery biologists and fish habitat specialists in the planning and development of proposals, well in advance of proposal deadlines to allow time to evaluate site conditions. See Appendix C for a list of DFG contacts.

Funding for proposals submitted under this Solicitation are subject to availability of funds and approval of the Budget Act for 2003/2004 Fiscal Year.

Project Types

The proposal application must identify the project type that describes the proposed project. DFG has developed a two-letter coding system for various types of projects. A list of these two-letter codes is shown below and described in more detail in Section III (pages 8-16); the codes are used throughout this Solicitation to represent restoration project types.

Funding for anadromous fish restoration work in Coastal Drainages (outside the Central Valley drainage) is limited to the project types indicated below. Funding for anadromous fish restoration work in the Central Valley is limited to the four project types indicated below. Specific details, requirements, and funding for each are explained later in this document.

Coastal Drainages

AC AmeriCorps Program only
CC California Conservation Corps only
CF CA Forest Improvement Program
ED Public School Watershed and Fishery
Conservation Education Projects
FL Fish Ladder
HA Habitat Acquisition and Conservation
Easements
HB Instream Barrier Modification
HI Instream Habitat Restoration
HR Riparian Restoration
HS Instream Bank Stabilization
HU Watershed Restoration (Upslope)
MD Monitoring Projects (Data)
MO Project Monitoring Following Project
Completion
OR Watershed Organization Support and
Assistance
PL Watershed Evaluation, Assessment,
and Planning
PM Project Maintenance
RE Cooperative Rearing
SC Fish screening of Diversions
TE Private Sector Technical Training and
Education Project Grants
TW Tailwater Management
WC Water Conservation Measures (Ditch
Lining, Piping, Stock Water Systems)
WD Water Measuring Devices (Instream
and Water Diversion)
WP Water Purchase

Central Valley

ED Public School Watershed and Fishery
Conservation Education Projects
HI Instream Habitat Restoration
PM Project Maintenance
RE Cooperative Rearing

SECTION I

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

In order to be considered for 2003/2004 funding, all proposals must follow the guidelines given below and must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or received at the NAFWB office no later than **May 9, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.** You must meet the conditions below and refer to Appendices A and B for all application requirements and examples. Failure to follow these conditions will result in your application being rejected. A complete proposal package will include:

- A completed Application Form. An application form and instructions for filling out this application form is provided in this Solicitation package (Appendix A or available on-line at www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwf/fishgrant.shtml). Your Federal Taxpayer Identification number must be provided on the application form.
- A complete budget. See the budget form in Appendix B.
- Supporting material such as land access agreements, maps, pictures, and drawings. Please refer to the description of the project type for any additional required supporting materials.
- Grantees or contractors who have not previously contracted with the Department of Fish and Game will be required to complete a form STD. 204, Payee Data Record (Appendix B).

In preparing a proposal, please pay particular attention to the following:

1. A separate proposal must be submitted for each identified project site and work type, accepting proposals for educational programs, private sector technical training, watershed organizational support or planning proposals as addressed under appropriate sections of this Solicitation. A work site is an easily definable geographic area on a physically similar section of a stream or drainage, such as a watershed planning area. Project types are defined in Section III. Similar kinds of work in a limited geographical area, such as several boulder weirs and cover log structures in a limited reach of stream, or non-contiguous road decommissioning in a watershed, could be covered in one proposal.
2. Project proposals must include specific descriptions of each proposed activity, including detailed costs of each proposed activity. Descriptions must be sufficiently detailed to allow DFG to write a contract with quantifiable objectives and to make a cost analysis of each element of the proposed project.
3. The proposal budget (see example in Appendix B) must specify the source and dollar amount of any proposed cost-share.

Project proposals must provide information specifically identifying any funding match requirements from a federal source or other entity. A proposal failing to comply may be considered non-responsive.
4. Proposed projects for any on-the-ground work must be submitted with written consent documents signed by landowners or authorized land managing authorities. Consent documents must include statements that landowners: 1) are aware of the proposed project; 2) give consent for pre-project evaluation; and 3) give provisional consent for the contractor to complete the proposed project. Documents must also provide for reasonable access by DFG or its agents for project implementation, inspection, maintenance, monitoring, and post-project evaluation for a period of up to 10 years following completion of the project (see example agreement Page B2, and sample "Upslope Erosion Control Project Agreement" form, Page B5).
5. In addition to a project consent document, proposals for fencing projects will not be considered unless they are accompanied by documents, signed by the landowners or authorized land managing authorities, indicating willingness to:

- a. maintain integrity of the fenced area by either the contractor or the landowner;
- b. negotiate a riparian area management plan containing provisions for control of livestock use in the fenced area for a 10-year period following completion of the project, to allow riparian vegetation to recover;

Accessibility and intended use of lands enclosed by fencing projects will be important factors in rating proposed fencing projects. A sample Riparian Area Management Plan Landowner Agreement is included with the project proposal example provided in this information packet (Page B8).

6. A legible 8.5 x 11" photocopy of original U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (quad) (or equivalent) maps centered on work sites must be provided for all upslope, instream, riparian, project monitoring, and project maintenance proposals. Planning proposals must also include a map, but may substitute a legible 8.5 x 11" photocopy of original appropriately scaled USGS (or equivalent) contoured topographic map, that shows the watershed boundary. If a work site is near the edge or corner of a quad, and USGS quad maps are being used, adjacent quads must be spliced together before the photocopy is made. Please identify all maps by name or reference number. Each work site occupying less than 100 feet along a stream must be labeled, with an arrow pointing to the site. Work sites occupying more than 100 feet of stream or roads, or other upslope activities must be delimited with a label plus an arrow marked "U" pointing at the upstream end of the site, and an arrow marked "D" pointing at the downstream end. Maps must also be labeled with project title, contractor name, USGS quad name, and stream name, and be positioned so that relevant map information such as stream names, towns, main roads, water bodies, etc., are not obscured. Refer to the example map copy provided with the sample project proposal for acceptable format. All proposals for habitat restoration, which includes upslope restoration, must also include a detailed plan-view diagram with scale (example Page B9) depicting all pertinent features of the project site, and showing the stream channel or other area of work, structure locations, revegetation areas, distance to each project structure from a reference point, and other significant project and existing features. HU projects may use "typical" drawings if multiple similar physical improvements are proposed. ED proposals do not need to include maps for each school.
7. If administrative overhead costs exceed ten percent of total costs of all other aspects of a proposal, a separate sheet detailing these overhead costs must be attached and submitted with the proposal. Please be advised that when contracts are audited all overhead costs must be justified by detailed accounting records or they will be disallowed.
8. Proposals must use a 10 point standard font (such as Arial or Times New Roman on a computer), on plain white paper. Proposal text and graphics must be in black and white and be confined to only one side of each plain-paper page. Do not bind proposals in plastic, cover stock, folders or any other binding. Simply staple each plain-paper proposal copy once in the upper left corner. Handling bound proposals delays proposal processing. Your proposal will be rejected if you do not follow these formatting requirements. You must provide 15 copies of each proposal submitted, with the Summary Sheet being the first page of your proposal. If you have letterhead stationery, please use it only on the transmittal letter for the package. Do not include letters of support or recommendation with your proposal package, and do not include originals of photographs.
9. All nonprofit and private entity sponsors must submit a completed *Environmental Project Questionnaire* with each proposal. A blank Environmental Project Questionnaire form is included with this document (in Appendix B). Compliance with the CEQA, ESA and CESA will be required if a proposal is funded. The Environmental Questionnaire is included in this packet to help guide the applicant in developing a complete proposal. It is the applicant's responsibility to develop project proposals that will avoid significant environmental impacts. We strongly urge you to work

closely with appropriate DFG regional biological staff as you complete this form to make certain that you address all potential environmental concerns that may be associated with your proposed project.

10. Most public agencies (except for CCC) and Indian tribes receiving grant funds will be expected to act as lead agency for CEQA, ESA, and CESA. Compliance with these laws will be required before the disbursement of any funds. Public agencies and Indian tribes are strongly urged to work closely with appropriate DFG regional biological staff to make certain that you address all potential environmental concerns that may be associated with your proposed project. Addresses and telephone numbers of DFG personnel are included in Appendix C.
11. Proposals will not be accepted that are mitigation measures specifically required as a condition of approval for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents or otherwise legally required as mitigation for other projects (Fish and Game Code, Section 6923). Proposals may be submitted if there is a CEQA document and the proposal is not a specific mitigation measure required as a condition of a permit. Project proposals must include sufficient information for DFG to determine that the project is not required as a mitigation measure as described above. It is recommended that any applicable copy of an approved or certified CEQA document be attached to the project proposal. CEQA documents include Environmental Impact Reports, Mitigated Negative Declarations and CEQA functional equivalent documents such as Timber Harvesting Plans, Non-industrial Timber Management Plans, and Sustained Yield Plans.
12. Please submit fifteen (15) copies of each proposal to:

For Mailing or Hand Delivery:

Grant Proposals
CA Department of Fish and Game
Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

All proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or received in this office no later than **May 9, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.** Proposals received after this date and time at the office location above will not be accepted.

In addition to the required hard copies, an electronic copy of your proposal may be submitted to kkarcher@dfg.ca.gov.

SECTION II

IMPORTANT PROVISIONS FOR ALL PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. Project proposals must include a detailed description of the problem or issue to be addressed, how each proposed action will address the problem(s) or issue(s), and the expected results. There must also be a clear and understandable link between proposals and current or historical problems.

Descriptions must be sufficiently detailed regarding overall work proposed, and may include copies of photographs of the existing conditions from fixed photo point(s), and costs of each proposed work element, in order for DFG to: 1) write a grant/contract with measurable and quantifiable objectives, and 2) perform a cost analysis of proposed work during the proposal evaluation process. In addition, include expected quantitative results and the overall impacts to the habitat, such as road length treated/assessed (distance in miles), stream crossings treated (number), and stream length treated/assessed/made more accessible (distance in feet). (see Appendix A Section 5)

2. DFG has developed project categories and some standard costs based on past experience in development of fish habitat restoration and upslope projects. These standard costs will be an important element in evaluating and rating these projects. These standardized costs are shown in Appendix B. Higher than standard costs will be considered only if adequate justification is provided.

Cost analysis of the proposed project will include all project costs. Total project cost used in the analysis will include the total amount requested from available funds under this Solicitation and any cash or in-kind cost share from any other funding source.

DFG recognizes that watershed restoration or watershed planning proposals, as well as some proposals for instream habitat restoration on larger streams, or in areas with poor access, may have no cost standard established or may exceed cost standards. These projects will require a greater level of project description and will be judged based on costs for similar projects that have been implemented as well as on assessment of proposed costs by fishery and fish habitat restoration staff. Project descriptions must include details of project design and costs of labor, material, and equipment for each project element. As examples: 1) instream structure proposals must specifically define each proposed structure, its complexity, and the materials, labor, and other costs for completing the structure; 2) vegetation restoration projects must describe plant species, number of plants, and the area (in square feet or acres) covered; 3) fencing projects must include linear feet of fence and the type of fencing material proposed; 4) road decommissioning or improvement projects must include estimates of sediment that would be prevented from entering the stream system; 5) road assessment must justify cost per mile by explaining difficulty of assessment; and 6) bioengineering projects must define linear feet of bank stabilized and riparian species planted.

3. Under the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, DFG policy does not normally allow for purchases of equipment. However, under certain circumstances and with adequate justification, the Department may approve the purchase of equipment. Any equipment approved under this Solicitation shall remain the property of the State of California. Final disposition of equipment purchased under a grant or contract shall be at the State's discretion. For granting or contracting purposes, equipment is defined as all moveable articles of non-expendable property which have: 1) a normal useful life, including extended life due to repairs, of four (4) years or more; 2) an identity which does not change with use, i.e., it is not consumed by use or converted by fabrication into some other form of property; 3) unit cost of \$500.00 or more; and 4) are to be used to conduct business in accordance with the agreement.

4. Klamath River Basin Proposals - Proposals for restoration activities in the Klamath River Basin (excluding the Trinity River Basin) must be clearly identified as such by checking box in Section 1 of the Proposal Application. This requirement is necessary to ensure that State funds expended for salmon and steelhead restoration in this basin may be accounted for separately and applied as part of the State match of Federal funds expended, as required under Federal law. Identify your proposal location by indicating "Yes" or "No" in the appropriate Summary Sheet item. For further details concerning proposals for work in this geographic area, contact Mr. Neil Manji (530-225-2306).
5. Trinity River Basin Proposals - Proposals for restoration activities in the Trinity River Basin (from its confluence with Klamath River up to Lewiston Dam) must also be clearly identified as such by checking box in Section 1 of the Proposal Application. This requirement is necessary to ensure that State funds expended for salmon and steelhead restoration in this basin may be accounted for separately and applied as part of the State match of Federal funds expended, as required under Federal law. Identify your proposal location by indicating "Yes" or "No" in the appropriate Summary Sheet item.
6. All funded proposals must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Most public agencies (except for CCC) and Indian tribes receiving grant funds will be expected to act as lead agency for CEQA, ESA, and CESA. Compliance with these laws will be required before the disbursement of any funds. For nonprofit and private entities receiving funds, DFG will act as lead agency for CEQA, ESA, and CESA compliance. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to develop project proposals that will avoid significant environmental impacts. This includes budgeting sufficient time and/or funds in your proposal for any threatened and endangered species surveys and mitigation that may be needed to complete your proposed project. All applicants are strongly urged to work closely with appropriate DFG staff to make certain that you address all potential environmental concerns that may be associated with your proposed project. Addresses and telephone numbers of DFG personnel are included in Appendix C.

SECTION III

PROPOSAL PROJECT TYPES AND SUBJECT AREAS

Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration

NOTE: Proposals for instream habitat, watershed habitat, or riparian habitat restoration proposals must include a description of current and anticipated land-use in areas potentially affecting the project site for the five-year period that begins with the year in which the project is proposed for implementation. DFG fisheries personnel assigned to evaluate projects will consider current and anticipated land use when evaluating biological soundness of these projects. Instream habitat, watershed habitat, or riparian habitat restoration proposals lacking a written description of current and anticipated land use activities will be removed from funding consideration. In ALL areas where ANY on-the-ground work is proposed, permission for work to be done, in the form of signed written commitments, must be obtained from landowners. Landowners must demonstrate a willingness to cooperate and participate in the watershed restoration project, and allow DFG and its agents access to project sites for project monitoring and evaluation for a period of up to 10 years following the date of project completion. Examples are included in Appendix B.

Habitat Acquisition and Conservation Easements (HA)

Grants will allow the acquisition of conservation easements or fee title to riparian buffer strips along coastal rivers and streams to protect key salmon and steelhead habitat. Applicants for acquisition funding for conservation easements or fee title of riparian buffer strips must submit the following information so the proposal can be properly evaluated:

- A. Type of acquisition (conservation easement or fee title) and evidence of the owner's willingness to sell. Only acquisitions for which there is a willing seller will be considered.
- B. Regional Assessor's and site-specific maps showing the location and boundaries of the subject property.
- C. The current owner, address, legal description and assessor's parcel number(s) of the subject property.
- D. Photographs of the subject property.
- E. A copy of the conservation easement, appraisal, deed, acquisition agreement or other document that demonstrates the applicant's ownership or right to acquire the interest being proposed and a valuation of the acquisition, including a description of the basis for that valuation, along with a supporting resolution of the applicant's governing body.
- F. A detailed narrative describing the subject property, how the acquisition will protect and enhance anadromous salmonid habitat on the subject property, and how any potential adverse impacts from surrounding land uses will be prevented. For fee title acquisitions, the narrative must also describe how, and over what time-period, the habitat protection and enhancement on the property will be assured.
- G. Any known title restrictions or encumbrances that could adversely affect the proposed use; any permits or approvals from private parties or governmental authorities required for the acquisition; and any significant legal issues associated with the acquisition.
- H. Any known or suspected hazardous substances that could adversely affect the subject property.

- I. A narrative describing how the property will be managed and maintained (including who will be responsible, anticipated costs and funding sources) and whether or not public access will be provided.
- J. A description of existing baseline information, what baseline information will be established (including who will be responsible, anticipated costs and funding sources), as well as who will hold, monitor and enforce the easement (including anticipated costs and funding sources).
- K. A detailed project budget estimate reflecting all costs associated with the project and specifically designating costs to be covered by the grant request and costs to be covered by other sources (match or cost-share). The budget should quantify acquisition costs such as: preliminary title reports, appraisals, negotiations, escrow, etc.

Prior to review by the California Coastal Salmonid Peer Review Committee (PRC), a full narrative appraisal of the proposed interest (conservation easement or fee title), prepared pursuant to the "Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practices," current edition, of the Appraisal Standards Board will be required. The grant award shall be considered conditional, contingent upon an appraisal that is acceptable to DFG. All real property shall be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current laws governing relocation and acquisition of real property by public agencies. Disbursement of grant funds may be subject to prior approval of fair market value by the State Department of General Services. The conservation easement must name the State of California, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), or its designee, as an express third party beneficiary entitled to all of the rights and remedies of the easement holder under the easement, and provide that if the easement holder dissolves or elects to transfer the easement, its interest shall be transferred to DFG, or its designee, if DFG elects. Copies of all baseline information, reports and notices pursuant to or in connection with the conservation easement must be provided to DFG. No amendment or modification of the conservation easement shall be effective unless approved in writing by DFG. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Instream Barrier Modification (HB (stream crossings) and FL)

Work in these categories is specifically limited to barriers to migration or emigration. Proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria in Appendix D. This project type does not include pre-project planning. Proposals for pre-project planning and development should be submitted under (PL) Watershed Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning.

Instream Habitat Restoration (HI-HS-HB (except stream crossings) and CF)

These categories are limited to work specifically in the stream channel (bankfull). It is recommended that proposals under these categories include the baseline data discussed in Parts II, and III, of the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, 3rd edition (California Department of Fish and Game)*. Proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria in Appendix D.

Watershed and Riparian Habitat Restoration (HU-HR-CF)

Work under these categories include riparian and upslope restoration. Sponsors of watershed restoration proposals may, in lieu of the detailed description of past and anticipated land use, submit a DFG accepted watershed plan that describes past and anticipated land use. DFG fisheries specialists assigned to evaluate projects will consider current and anticipated land use when evaluating biological soundness of projects. Proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria in Appendix D. Additional guidelines for watershed restoration projects include:

- A. A separate proposal for each watershed restoration project. Each proposal must demonstrate how the project would be instrumental in restoring the natural function of the watershed. Sub-drainages within a hydrologic basin that are not contiguous may be submitted under a single watershed restoration project proposal if restoration of these non-contiguous sub-drainages will, in conjunction with other restoration being undertaken in the hydrologic basin, or on its own, correct the major problems affecting anadromous salmonids in the entire hydrologic basin.
- B. Upslope restoration work that is beyond the riparian area must focus on correction of major problems affecting the watershed. Evaluators of proposals will determine whether proposed watershed work is likely to correct "keystone limiting factor" problems that must be corrected before other restorative measures can be implemented with a significant probability of success.
- C. During the evaluation process, watershed restoration proposals will be given additional points for correction of "keystone limiting factor" and other problems in accordance with a DFG accepted watershed restoration plan for the hydrologic basin or planning watershed.
- D. For upslope erosion control projects (HU), a signed written project agreement must be provided by the contractor from the landowner who will allow DFG and its agents access to project sites for maintenance, inspection, and monitoring for a period of up to 10 years following the date of project completion. A sample "Upslope Erosion Control Project Agreement" form is provided in Appendix B.
- E. For riparian restoration projects (HR), that include fencing, a written project agreement must be provided by the contractor from the landowner stating the intent of the contractor or landowner to maintain the fence for a period of 10 years following the date of project completion. A sample "Riparian Area Management Plan Landowner Agreement" form is provided in Appendix B.

Project Maintenance Following Project Implementation (PM)

Proposals for project maintenance must describe maintenance needs and proposed corrective actions. The proposal should give a concise description of the original project implementation including prescriptions, techniques and protocols used. Include the time period the subject project was implemented, the original and current cooperators, any changes in land ownership, and any changes in land use. Proposed maintenance projects must also include preparation of a report describing why there is a need for the maintenance proposed and how the maintenance work will provide long-term benefits to anadromous salmonids. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Fish Screening of Diversions (SC)

This category is specifically limited to screening projects. All proposals for screens must meet DFG and NMFS screening criteria found in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, Appendix S*. Headgates and water measuring devices must be incorporated in these projects. Proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria in Appendix D.

Tailwater Management (TW)

Addition of irrigation tailwater into streams may reduce water quality by increasing temperature and nutrient loading. Projects must either reduce tailwater generation through improved irrigation systems or assist in recovery and reuse of tailwater. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Water Conservation Measures (Ditch Lining, Piping, Stock Water Systems) (WC)

Projects will only be accepted in this category that provide more efficient use of water extracted from stream systems. For large projects, a groundwater/surface flow connectivity study should be included as a preliminary feature of the project. Water saved by these projects must be left in the stream for fish benefits. Ditch lining, piping, stock-water systems, and inline reservoirs are included in this category. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Water Measuring Devices (Instream and Water Diversion) (WD)

Projects to install and maintain instream and water diversion measuring devices are requested. The instream gages will be positioned to track mainstem flows as well as tributaries that contribute flows for fish recovery. Water diversion gages will be installed in conjunction with fish screens and projects in the WC and WP categories. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Water Purchase (WP)

Water purchase includes the purchase or acquisition of water rights, both short- and long-term that will protect and improve water quality and quantity. This category includes water conservation purchases, or leases that will result in quantifiable amounts of water being made available in streams for fish use. Proposals for water conservation purchases or leases must describe the mechanism that would be used to track downstream travel of water purchased or leased. Proposals applying for funding for water conservation purchases or leases must include the following information so they can be properly evaluated:

- A. Type of acquisition and evidence of the owner's willingness to sell. Only acquisitions for which there is a willing seller will be considered.
- B. A narrative describing who will manage the acquisition, how the acquisition will be managed, and how the water rights purchase, lease, or easement will protect and enhance salmon habitat.
- C. A narrative describing current use, diversion, basis for determining the amount of flow available, and how the proposed additional flow will be measured. Describe any facilities that may require removal or renovation for flows to enter the stream.
- D. A survey of surrounding landowners and downstream users and a narrative describing how the water rights purchase or lease will impact downstream users, and how surrounding land use and downstream impacts will be mitigated. Also include any rights or claims downstream users may have to flow. If the proposal is based on cooperative lease or purchase agreements, a list of project cooperators must be provided.
- E. A copy of the fee title appropriated or adjudicated water ownership title, deed, or other document that demonstrates the validity of ownership for the water right(s) being proposed; and a valuation, including a description of the basis for that valuation.
- F. Maps and photographs showing the location and extent (beginning and end) of the entitled water rights purchase or lease.
- G. A narrative of who will hold and monitor the water rights purchase or lease, establish baseline information, and maintain monitoring records.
- H. A detailed project budget estimate reflecting all costs associated with the project and specifically designating costs to be covered by the grant request and costs to be covered

by other sources (match or cost-share). The budget should quantify acquisition costs such as: preliminary title reports, appraisals, negotiations, escrow, etc.

Upon approval of the proposed grant request, an appraisal of the proposed interest will be required. The grant award shall be considered conditional, contingent upon an appraisal that is acceptable to DFG. All real property shall be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current laws governing relocation and acquisition of real property by public agencies. Disbursement of grant funds may be subject to prior approval of fair market value by the State Department of General Services. The acquisition must name the State of California, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), or its designee, as an express third party beneficiary entitled to all of the rights and remedies of the easement holder under the easement, and provide that if the property holder dissolves or elects to transfer the ownership, its interest shall be transferred to DFG, or its designee, if DFG elects. Copies of all baseline information, reports and notices pursuant to or in connection with the acquisition must be provided to DFG. No amendment or modification of the acquisition shall be effective unless approved in writing by DFG. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Cooperative Rearing and Restoration Support

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) (CF)

For purposes of this Solicitation, a CFIP project is defined as a salmon or steelhead habitat restoration project that meets eligibility criteria under California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) CFIP guidelines. Contact your local CDF office for detailed information concerning CFIP guidelines.

DFG will not process CFIP proposals unless accompanied by written certification from CDF that the proposed project meets all applicable CFIP eligibility criteria. CFIP proposals will be evaluated and ranked using the criteria for instream habitat restoration projects or watershed restoration projects (see Appendix D).

Public School Watershed and Fishery Conservation Education Projects (ED)

Grants will assist public school education programs with instruction in watershed and anadromous fishery conservation. Education materials should be developed using the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education guidelines (http://www.naaee.org/npeee/materials_guidelines/). Education proposals must teach or use DFG acceptable methods and correspond to current California Department of Education Content Standards (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/standards/>) (and/or National Science Content Standards (<http://nap.edu/readingroom/books/nses/>)).

Acceptable methods include a detailed outline of curriculum concepts to be taught at specific grade level. This should include an emphasis on curricular activities that address conditions of the local watershed and promote personal responsibility for watershed stewardship. An overarching goal is to have students, families and communities understand the nature of the salmonid resource and the effects of their own and others' actions. The number of persons trained (e.g. students taught) should be identified.

Education proposals must include, and grant/contracts will require, an evaluation plan that will be used to evaluate the program's effectiveness in meeting specific objectives for both teachers and students. Describe in some detail how gains in student knowledge are to be measured. Describe also how the teacher will be able to demonstrate whether the project has met their expectations, and will be able to make programmatic recommendations that may impact design of future projects. This evaluation plan must provide the means to measure the project's success, such as pre- and post-testing, performance standards, or an assessment rubric. It is mandatory that the successful grant recipient submit the results and analysis of their evaluation within a final report at the end of the project period. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Monitoring Projects (MD & MO below)

NOTE: For all Monitoring Projects described below, DFG is currently developing and field testing a suite of standardized protocols for effectiveness and validation monitoring of salmonid habitat restoration projects. Interim protocols currently exist for riparian, instream habitat and upland erosion control projects. Proposals are solicited from qualified contractors to apply these interim protocols to proposed restoration projects in coastal California watersheds. These proposals will be evaluated based on their contribution to the DFG's protocol development process, and usefulness of data for subsequent post-project effectiveness and validation monitoring in different regions of coastal California. Proposers should demonstrate competence and understanding of the monitoring approaches (see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwf/fishgrant.shtml> for protocol descriptions). Successful contractors will be provided training in the use of these protocols in the spring of 2004. They will be expected to collect field data using approved forms and enter the data into an electronic database system.

Monitoring Projects (MD) (Data)

Monitoring projects include, but are not limited to, establishing baseline anadromous salmonid habitat and population conditions and monitoring their status and trends in response to watershed restoration treatments and actions. Monitoring may also include appropriate assessment sampling to periodically assess overall habitat and population condition at appropriate regional scales. Proposals for monitoring must use protocols approved by DFG and NMFS that will provide baseline and/or trend data for anadromous fish populations, other instream organisms, or physical factors known to limit their distribution, abundance, and/or survival.

Applicants must demonstrate qualifications for conducting proposed monitoring projects. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D. All persons interested in submitting proposals in this category should contact Barry Collins at 707-725-1068.

Project Monitoring Following Project Completion (MO)

Proposals for project monitoring are limited to monitoring of completed restoration projects. These effectiveness monitoring proposals must address physical effects of completed restoration treatments and should, when possible, include appropriate measurements describing project implementation and environmental conditions immediately following completion of the restoration treatment. Monitoring may also include elements for the assessment of biological effects of completed projects. Proposals should include a long-term plan for conducting extended monitoring based upon DFG's initial grant support. Applicants must demonstrate qualifications for conducting the proposed monitoring project. Project monitoring work must also include a report containing data, results, discussion, and recommendations that will assist DFG and the restoration community in selecting the best projects for future implementation. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D. All persons interested in submitting proposals in this category should contact Barry Collins at 707-725-1068.

Watershed Organization Support and Assistance (OR) and Public Involvement and Capacity Building (PI)

Grants will assist locally based organizations that generate public and landowner support for anadromous salmonid habitat restoration of local watersheds. Priority will be given to groups focusing on areas with no previous watershed organization effort.

Proposals for Watershed Organization Support (OR) may be from existing or proposed nonprofit, local watershed restoration organizations, or from any public entity, such as a Resource Conservation District (RCD), that assists locally based watershed restoration.

Proposals for Public Involvement and Capacity Building (PI) within regional/county efforts (e.g. Fish Net 4C, 5 Northern County Group and south central and southern groups) must be directed towards salmon and steelhead habitat restoration efforts. All proposals should include, and contracts will require, measurable and quantifiable tasks. For example, "The contractor will work with the Goober Creek Watershed Council to develop local landowner support for the restoration of salmon and anadromous trout habitat in Goober Creek watershed, and will organize and facilitate at least ____ meetings within the Goober Creek Watershed which is comprised of approximately ____ people. These meetings will provide interested watershed landowners with information on ways they can become involved in watershed efforts for improving salmon and steelhead habitat." The foregoing is an extremely BRIEF descriptive example. Actual proposals must be much more thorough and detailed to be considered for funding.

All proposals from existing groups must include, a status report indicating the groups past performance that will be used to evaluate the group's effectiveness. This status report should describe the process with which the group has achieved its past measurable and quantifiable tasks and how the group's efforts have resulted or will result in on-the-ground restoration efforts. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Watershed Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning (PL)

For purposes of this Solicitation, a watershed may be as small as the smallest significant unit contained within a distinct hydrologic basin or as large as an entire hydrologic basin. A watershed that provides habitat for anadromous salmonids and is eligible for grant funding under this Solicitation is defined as:

A common drainage area flowing to a larger stream or into the ocean of a stream inhabited now or in the past, individually or by any combination of: coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, or anadromous cutthroat trout.

Proposals in this category must describe a complete and detailed process of watershed evaluation and assessment that culminates in completion of an integrated plan containing site-specific and clearly prioritized recommendations for work that will lead to the restoration of salmon and anadromous trout habitats in a watershed. Both social and landscape elements associated with restoration of the watershed must be addressed. Proposals that do not address both of these elements will be removed from funding consideration. If evaluation and assessment work has already been completed to DFG satisfaction, the plan may include, or reference, already completed work to satisfy this element. Proposals must address how the project sponsor will obtain landowner support for all proposed activities requiring access to private land.

Proposals must provide sufficient detail to allow evaluators to assess whether resulting plans will be comprehensive and result in recommendations for meaningful improvements in the watershed. All proposals must include enough information to allow DFG to evaluate the proposal and write a grant or contract with quantifiable objectives for implementation and deliverable products.

Sponsors must include a qualifications statement of those proposing to undertake this work including their experience in watershed planning and habitat restoration. DFG seeks plans based on sound, acceptable techniques and analysis that can be used as the basis for determining the scope and priority of work needed for restoration of watersheds.

Watershed plans must contain the evaluation and assessment of physical characteristics of the watershed. However, these elements alone are insufficient to comprise a watershed plan. Watershed assessment and evaluation should be included as part of proposed work leading to production of a plan. For watersheds where this work has already been completed, previous evaluation and assessment work

must be referenced in the proposal. In either case, evaluators will determine acceptability of the proposed assessment element. Key factors in determining acceptability include whether proposed assessments use standard, valid techniques, and, whether information from prior work, which must be cited if used, is applicable.

Proposals for partial watershed assessment and evaluation such as road erosion surveys and stream surveys, must include reference to a documented plan calling for only the assessment and evaluation work, or must contain additional project proposal elements that will result in a complete watershed restoration plan. All partial assessment work proposed must be based on an already completed watershed planning document that is acceptable to DFG. Proposals to develop ranch implementation plans that will identify opportunities to increase anadromous salmonid populations may be included under watershed planning. These plans will cover specific ownerships or portions of a watershed that lend themselves to property specific planning.

Proposals for pre-project planning and development for instream barrier modification should reference a DFG or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) accepted watershed plan, which specifically identifies barriers to salmon and steelhead migration or emigration and sets priorities for the watershed.

While a watershed restoration plan must include instream and riparian habitat restoration elements where appropriate, the major focus must be on upslope conditions beyond the riparian area, concentrating particularly on the description of, and recommendations for, correction of major watershed problems. Evaluators of proposals will determine whether recommendations of proposed plans are likely to result in steps that, when implemented, correct "keystone" factors or problems that must be corrected before other restorative measures affecting the watershed can be implemented successfully.

Planning work in sub-drainages within a hydrologic basin that are not contiguous may be submitted under a single watershed restoration planning project proposal if restoration of these non-contiguous sub-drainages will, in conjunction with other restoration being undertaken in the hydrologic basin, or on its own, correct the major problems affecting the entire hydrologic basin. Proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria in Appendix D.

Cooperative Fish Rearing (RE)

Cooperative fish rearing project proposals considered for funding from sources over which DFG has discretionary spending authority must meet all of the legal and policy requirements of the excerpted portions of the Fish and Game Code and Fish and Game Commission Policies that are presented in Appendix F. Examples include: 1) project proposals must document cash or in-kind cost share to meet the requirement of Fish and Game Code, Section 1204, below; and 2) no discretionary funds will be available for equipment or construction of rearing facilities, also in accordance with Section 1204. Projects recommended for funding by the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee, must be in accordance with Fish and Game Code sections 7860-7863. Proposals for new rearing projects must include detailed justification for estimated production costs. These proposals must include a proposed Five-Year Management Plan that follows guidelines in "Cooperative Fish Production in California" (found in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, Appendix B*), available from the Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch at DFG Sacramento headquarters or in electronic format at the DFG Internet site (www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing/index.html). Proposals for established programs must have an approved Five-Year Management Plan. Proposals for continued operation of established programs must contain summaries of production costs for the past five years or for the life of the project if it has operated for less than five years. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.

Private Sector Technical Training and Education Project Grants (TE)

Grants will be for support of private sector training and education in the field of anadromous salmonid habitat analysis and restoration. Proposals may include those for: 1) teaching private landowners about practical means of improving land and water management practices that, if implemented, will contribute to protection and restoration of salmon and anadromous trout stream habitat; 2) scholarship funding for attending workshops and conferences that teach restoration techniques; 3) operation of nonprofit restoration technical schools; and 4) production of restoration training and education workshops and conferences. Education proposals must include, and contracts will require, an evaluation plan that will be used to evaluate the program's effectiveness in meeting specific learning objectives for both teachers and students. This evaluation plan will provide the means to measure the project's success, such as pre- and post-testing or pre- and post-attendee surveys, performance standards, or an assessment rubric. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria in Appendix D.